



Congressman Pastor's Washington Update

An electronic newsletter from Congressman Ed Pastor, U.S. House of Representatives, AZ District 4

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NOTES OF INTEREST

- **Taxpayers have until April 17 to file tax returns this year.**
- **IRS taxes your canceled debt.** If you've had debt that was canceled or forgiven, you may have to pay taxes on it. Talk to a tax adviser for more information.
- **Bachelor's degree attained by 30 percent of adults.** Census figures show that in March 2011, for the first time ever, 30 percent of U.S. adults 25 and older had attained at least a bachelor's degree.
- **Brophy College Preparatory** recently won the Arizona High School Science Bowl, held by the U.S. Dept. of Energy.

Congressman Ed Pastor
Representing
Arizona's Fourth
Congressional District

Phoenix District Office
602-256-0551

Washington Office
202-225-4065

Sign up for the E-NEWSLETTER and/or Email Ed at his Congressional website:
www.pastor.house.gov

Social Security providing financial assistance in retirement, times of need

For more than 75 years, Americans have counted on Social Security to provide us financial assistance in our retirement or times of need. It has been a safety-net to pro-



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor encourages constituents to use Social Security's online retirement benefits estimator.

tect hard-working seniors from poverty and destitution

and has helped the disabled, widows and orphans in times of difficulty and distress.

As I work in Congress to protect and strengthen Social Security, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind constituents about a useful online tool that helps them estimate their benefits.

Social Security's Retirement Estimator at www.ssa.gov/estimator gives you the opportunity to enter some personal information and find out how much you will receive in benefits based on different retirement age scenarios. To estimate your benefits should you ever need disability benefits or if your family files for survivor benefits, you may use the Social Security Quick Calcu-

lator at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/quickcalc/index.html>.

These websites have replaced the Social Security Statement, which was the annual paper mailing we would receive that showed our yearly earnings and future estimated benefits. The Social Security Administration discontinued the mailings in April of 2011 because of budget cuts. However, mailings of the statements resumed in February for people age 60 and older. The Social Security Administration hopes to make an announcement in the coming months after it completes testing of an online statement service, according to a spokesman.

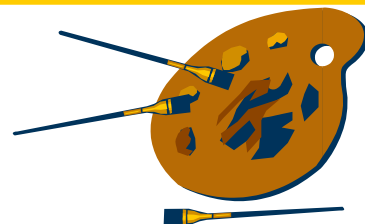
FOR STUDENTS

High school artists encouraged to enter Congressional art competition

High school artists are encouraged to enter their original works in the 31st Annual Congressional Arts Competition, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz. **The deadline to submit artwork is April 20, 2012.**

For the 20th year in a row, Pastor is hosting the arts competition in his district to showcase young artistic talent. A winning entry will be selected and sent to Washington to be exhibited for a year in a corridor leading to the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of visitors will view it along with winning entries from throughout the country.

Students who live or attend school in the Fourth Congressional District of Arizona may participate through their high school art department or by contacting Congressman Pastor's Phoenix District Office at 602-256-0551. More information about the competition's guidelines are available on Rep. Pastor's congressional website, www.pastor.house.gov.



'Making Democracy Work' essay writing contest for students in grades 6-12

The U.S. Capitol Historical Society is holding its first annual Student Essay Contest on the topic of "Making Democracy Work." The contest is open to any and all students in either 6-8 or 9-12 grades.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place for the winners of each group, and the first place prize includes a trip to Washington, D.C.

All entries must be postmarked or received no later than June 15, 2012. More information is available by visiting www.uschs.org.